

## **H. Significant Issues**

In the preparation of this plan, several issues were identified that impact the operation of Tims Ford State Park.

### **1. Land Base Resources**

- a) Encroachments
- b) Boundary surveys
- c) Uses for TERRM properties
- d) Identify optimal boundaries and land acquisition needs

### **2. Natural and Cultural Resource Management**

- (a) Need complete inventory of cultural resources.
- (b) Need complete inventory of natural resources.
- (c) Iris Fund money is all spent on landscaping with native plants and buying native plants. Some money should be spent on training personnel to care for the plants.
- (d) Multiyear contract with Iris Fund contractor.
- (e) Need consistency in the planting of native plants at golf course (Bear Trace) particularly at entrance and along roadway.
- (f) Problems with erosion along shoreline, on trails (including paved bicycle trails) and picnic table pads.

### **3. Visitation**

- (a) Only one counter on entrance road – may need to be moved to improve accuracy of counting. Need counters at other sites. (e.g. boat ramps)
- (b) Need visitor demographic studies.

### **4. Park Infrastructure**

- (a) Sewage treatment plant and attendant sewage and storm system piping

are old and worn. Though funding may be made available for the replacement of the plant and upgrading of the piping system, the Department's final decision on size and placement may depend on the overall implementation of the "Tims Ford Reservoir Land Management and Disposition Plan."

- (b) Need handicap accessible restrooms, including those on our newly acquired properties and the park's existing visitor center, picnic areas, and swimming pool.
- (c) Potential expansion of park to include an inn, restaurant and conference center (local private group has developed proposal for a public private partnership)

## **5. Equipment**

- (a) Need up-to-date computers including internet access.
- (b) Adequacy of radio coverage throughout the state park and TERRM properties.
- (c) Implementation of Hospitality Management System (HMS) – need technology infrastructure for HMS at visitor center and office
- (d) Need a patrol boat for more efficient patrolling of distant properties.
- (e) Need to identify the cost effectiveness of MVM and ERF.
- (f) Need ATV for access to remote, backcountry areas that are not accessible by car or jeep.

## **6. Retail Operations and Facilities**

- (a) Low cabin occupancy during spring and fall and weekdays.
- (b) Which of the retail operations will be enhanced by the new Hospitality Management System? When will the system be implemented?
- (c) Need point of sale capability for camping, swimming pool, and bike rentals.
- (d) Campgrounds need to be renovated and marketed to increase revenues and occupancy.
- (e) Leased operation contracts need to be reviewed to determine whether

they meet the park's needs.

- (f) 30-amp service is inadequate in campground.

## **7. Recreation Facilities and Programs**

- (a) The golf course and the park need to work cooperatively to maximize revenues for the benefit of both entities.
- (b) The inadequate number of pool staff causes the park's inability to meet health department requirements. Need to be able to pay lifeguards more.
- (c) Need facilities for group camp or lodge and a scout or primitive group camping area.

## **8. Interpretive Facilities and Programs**

- (a) Need more interpretive staff and programs.

## **9. Facilities Management and Maintenance**

- (a) The Fairview Campground, while a welcome addition to the park, will require a capital project to bring it up to national standards for campgrounds.
- (b) The Tims Ford State Park Visitor Center and Office building has come to be insufficient for the needs of the park. The single structure of 2,200 square feet does not function well as an administrative office and interpretive programming center. Space is also required for interpretive exhibits.
- (c) Need to assess office space needs for TERRM staff, files, and equipment.

## **10. Safety and Security**

- (a) Does TDEC want to keep the mounted ranger program at Tims Ford State Park?
- (b) A patrol boat is needed for the lake.
- (c) Is radio coverage adequate to ensure safety and security?

- (d) How will newly acquired boat ramp areas be secured? Should night access be eliminated?
- (e) Where does jurisdiction between enforcement of State Park rules and TVA rules begin and end? Can the park staff enforce State Park rules on TVA lands? Below 895 contour? Need to develop an interagency agreement between Tims Ford State Park, TWRA, and TVA.
- (f) Staffing -- Cannot effectively patrol new lands with current staff. Ranger staff must drive approximately 60 miles to patrol entire site.
- (g) Bear Trace Golf Course has requested that park ranger staff provide security and first response for emergencies.

## **11. Personnel**

- a) Upgrade 9-month custodian position to 12 months (cabins being open year-round).
- b) Upgrade Park Manager 2 to a Park Manager 3.
- c) Correct overlapped positions.
- d) Add a Clerk 3 position.
- e) Establish a new full-time position for the Fairview Campground (current contract for management is with an individual) in the park's operating budget.
- f) Conduct pay scale study for lifeguards and all park employees.

## **12. Park Budget and Funding**

- a) Fairview Campground revenues will continue to go to the TERRM budget until TERRM is closed out.
- b) The Legislative appropriation for the park's operating budget should be increased in order to meet new demands on the park.

## **13. TERRM Operations and Resources**

- a) How will the park manage hunting on TERRM lands? (Need to coordinate with TWRA and TVA)

- b) Oak Street property – who maintains in future (TVA)?
- c) Will the park continue to auction off the thirty year-round campsites at the Fairview Campground, as TERRM has done?
- d) A Capital Project will be needed to renovate and improve the Fairview Campground.
- e) Tims Ford State Park will ultimately become responsible for five boat launching areas. Will the park allow camping at these areas? Currently, there are no camping facilities at the ramps.
- f) Upgrade secretary position (under TERRM budget) to ASA1
- g) The park has acquired six islands, along with the other lands from TERRM. Will the park allow camping on these islands? If so, how will the park regulate the activity? Will the park develop sites to reduce impact on the islands? How will the park staff enforce regulations if they develop them?
- h) Determine how the park will manage and maintain the newly acquired TERRM buildings and roads. What will the Department do with the TERRM office and maintenance building?
- i) The park budget will have to be increased to effectively manage the new park properties.

#### **14. Marketing**

- a) Need marketing for park as a whole, to include
  - Marketing for cabins, particularly weekdays and off-season periods
  - Cooperative marketing with the Bear Trace Golf Course
  - Visitor demographics

#### **15. Assessment and Planning**

- a) Implement cultural resources inventory
- b) Implement natural resources inventory
- c) Need visitor demographic studies.
- d) Need to study pay scales for park employees.

## **16. *Management Options, Impacts and Constraints***

- (a) Develop comprehensive policy for camping, including location studies, fees, and permits for backcountry camping, including the six Tims Ford State Park islands.
- (b) Request the TERRM positions be allocated to the Tims Ford State Park budget (TDEC improvement request)